

Budget 2014 Departmental updates – EDUCATION AND CHILDREN

Summary

- Budget for 2014/15 £90.2m, representing a £4.1m reduction from the previous year.
- £3.8m will be transferred into DEC in respect of Manx Sport and Recreation, regional swimming pools and the Isle of Man Arts Council, following the dissolution of the DCCL.
- £5.7m will be transferred out following the creation of shared services for caretaking, cleaning, catering, IT, training, external communications and health and safety.
- In addition to this the Department's budget has reduced by a further £2.3m, largely as a result of the introduction of the universal contribution to tuition fees, agreed during last year's Budget.
- Since 2010 the Department has reduced spending by £3.1m (net of transfers) and absorbed cost increases of over £7m.
- Reductions have brought significant decreases in central staffing and also reductions in schools workforce, plus increased class sizes, removal of primary French and transfer of pre-school provision and family and mobile libraries to private and voluntary sectors.
- Against a backdrop of reducing budgets the Department has focussed on protecting the front line services of Primary and Secondary Schools and the Isle of Man College of Further and Higher Education, with each of these areas receiving slight increases in their revenue budgets. This has been funded by saving initiated both in previous and the current years, including the amalgamation of schools and restructuring of support and youth services.
- The Department has been able to secure funding in respect of its on-Island further and higher education, including the provision of vocational education for 14-16 year olds and the development of its precision engineering offering at the Isle of Man College.
- The Department is delighted to be receiving responsibility for sports and arts and is working to integrate these areas into DEC, identifying synergies that should lead to greater efficiencies.
- The Department supports the principles behind the creation of further shared services and is actively working with other Departments to facilitate a smooth transition.
- The Department is moving forward with a number of infrastructure projects including the post 16 and dining extension at Ballakermeen and the Isle of Man College of Further and Higher Education's new Engineering Centre, both on site. The Department is also progressing with design of the kitchen and dining scheme at Queen Elizabeth II, the College's new construction crafts facilities and the new Henry Bloom Noble Primary School on Westmoreland Road, Douglas.